

Mat-Su Monitor

SUMMER 2023

FREE

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 5

Why read?

By Lili Jacso

“What are you reading today Mrs. Dahl?” My wonderful librarian asks warmly.

“The Twits,” I responded smiling.

“What are you going to do when you’ve finally read all of his books?” I laughed and shrugged. I never thought about it.

When I was six my mom showed me Matilda for the first time and that’s where my reading obsession began. My mother was an avid reader and writer, so I’ve been reading as soon as I learned how. Since I was kid number four in my family, there were a plethora of books to choose from. When I was four my parents immigrated from Hungary to Canada and sent me to school not knowing a lick of English. As we’ve heard a hundred times, kids are like sponges and I knew how to speak, read and write fluently by the end

See READ page 15

Alaska

By Kaia Richardson

I am the leaves in the breeze
Blowing gently through the trees
I am the ripple in the river
Running on; Ending never
I am the land where you lie
And the sleep of the night
I am your gentle brother deer,
Your grandmother bear,
The otter in the water,
The mother of seal pup daughter
I am the wolf, the alpha, the pup
The hunger that rides the midnight hunt
I am your grandmother’s race
From your grandfather’s rage
I am the blood of ancestors drained
The fight against invaders for more land gained
I am the blizzard, the wind, the tree,
The farthest North that people flee.
I am the frost, the pain, the love, the hurt,
The hunt, the blood, the deepest earth.
I am your burrow, your den, your home, your hearth,
I am The Father, The Child, Our Mother Earth.

INDEX

Student Government.....3

Journey 4

Community Events 5

Spring Schedule 8

Student Resources 9

Club Corner..... 11

Student Art 13

Puzzles 14



MAT-SU COLLEGE 2023 STUDENT SHOWCASE WINNERS! From left to right: Jonathan Cuddy, Jessie Wilson, Jack Foisy, Amber Godin. Story of page 6.

International Egg Shortage; Product of Conspiracy? Or Reality?

By Amber Godin

borealnewsak@gmail.com

A national, and even international, egg shortage has drummed up much talk of the underlying cause. Theories range from improperly compensating farmers, to a national campaign involving the government’s personal involvement in poisoning chicken feed and varying theories in between. Federal associations and large corporations all claim Avian Influenza is to blame, while some social media users claim it’s Bill Gates. While these fantastical yet not far off theories sound dystopian, the answer is more blatant than you would expect, it’s right in front of our faces. An international grain shortage resulting from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is to blame.

A large amount of social media users claim chicken and poultry feed is to blame for the recent egg shortage. One social media user on TikTok claims that Purina Animal Foods, which happens to be owned by Land O’ Lakes, who happens to be related to several major egg companies such as Eggland’s Best (in which they have a joint partnership, each holding a 50 percent stake), is to blame (Steele, 2023; Land O’ Lakes, 2012). Interestingly enough Purina owns more than their marketed chicken feeds. Purina also owns Layer’s Pride and Dumor. Several articles “address” the concerns being brought forth by local farmers and consumers by stating that Purina has denied any and all claims regarding a formulation change in feed, yet none of those articles actually evaluate their

See EGGS page 10

Artificial Intelligence Today

By Ryan Newman

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a hot topic over the past months. Although AI has been progressing for years, it’s truly becoming a problem needed to be addressed now. Programs such as ChatGPT, Midjourney, DALL-E and the like have caused not only national, but international controversy. Some perhaps view AI as a despicable creation, one of many creations capable of causing a theoretical situation similar to The Terminator or I, Robot. On the other hand, many view AI as a beautiful creation that will advance the needs of humans, beyond humans. As well, many feel in between. I present the idea of both: this will be a very interesting creation that we should use... but cautiously, and ethically.

When I first began searching, I looked into AI art. Much of it was quite interesting at first, but frankly, stupid. It could do face photos relatively well, but anything else was just bad.

Then, we got the Midjourney AI. Through it, more intricate designs could be made. Some are genuinely hard to differentiate -- are they computer art or man’s art? When given the prompt for “Communist Propaganda” this what was generated to me: [see pic 1]

Pic 1



The images themselves aren’t comprehensible in linguistic nor contextual sense, yet to see them, they are very close to the real thing (as you can see in top left, the AI used Cyrillic text. In the bottom Left, the AI used the style of the East German Coat of Arms). You can push the AI further and create stylized drawings and paintings in

See AI page 15

Upcoming events:

May 15-July 29: 10-week summer session.

May 15-June 19: First 5-week summer session.

June 22-July 29: Second 5-week summer session.

August 16: New Student Orientation (tentative).

August 18-September 4: Visit the Mat-Su College cabin at the Alaska State Fair!

August 28: Fall classes begin.

Club meeting times:

Clubs are closed during the summer and will resume meetings in the fall semester.

Alaska Native Cultures Club: Contact Darla Budde at dmbudde@alaska.edu

Gaming Club: Thursdays, 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM. FSM 200.

Gay Straight Alliance LGBTQIA+ club: Thursdays, 1-4:00 PM, FSM 106

Human Services Club: Tuesday, 4-5 PM in FSM 112A.

Mat-Su Montor: Wednesdays, 2-3 PM, FSM 107

Math Club: Every other Friday at 1-2 PM in FSM 105

Robotics club: contact dnichols4@alaska.edu for hours.

Student Government: Tuesdays, 2:15 PM, FSM 106

If you or someone you know is homeless or at risk of being homeless, we can help!

We serve clients age 14-25 from 8am to 5:30pm Monday-Friday and 10am to 3:30pm Saturday. We provide all of the following services:

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Disclaimer

The Mat-Su Monitor is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The Monitor aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The Monitor seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the Monitor's weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the Monitor can be found at <https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/student-clubs/mat-su-monitor.cshtml>.

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the Monitor contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the Monitor article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.

Submissions policy

Students are invited to submit articles and letters to the editor to uaa_msc@alaska.edu or at <https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/student-clubs/mat-su-monitor.cshtml>. The Mat-Su Monitor will not accept anonymous submissions, though with prior arrangement articles of a sensitive nature can appear anonymously. All submissions are subject to editing and will only appear with the approval of the editor.

Business owners!

The Mat-Su Monitor is a great place to advertise your business or event. The Monitor has a wide circulation, with thousands of copies inserted in the Frontiersman and distributed throughout the Valley. We also have low rates:

Ad Size	Cost
3" by 3"	\$75
5" by 5"	\$125
7" by 7"	\$175
Full page	\$300
Full page, back	\$375

Moreover, the Monitor runs relatively few ads, which ensures that your ad will stand out. Finally, advertising in the Monitor demonstrates your support for local students. For more on advertising, call 745-9758.

Eden Knight was Murdered

By Brook Wright

Another trans woman was murdered. She committed suicide, but make no mistake, there were architects to her death. Eden Knight was a bright and cheerful woman who had gained a following online for being a jokester, a memer, illuminating people's days with wit and humor. She was known to critique the conservative culture of her home in Saudi Arabia and after coming out during the COVID-19 pandemic she was regarded "as a light in the trans community." She was a good person who did not deserve the violent machinations of her killers.

Her tormentors were the ones you would hope would have her back no matter what: her family. Tragically they lacked the simple moral principle that guides every good parent: loving your child. And so they conspired against Ms. Knight. Her father, Dr. Fahad Al-Shathri, Deputy Governor for Supervision at the Saudi Central Bank, hired "Michael Pocalyko" ("cybersecurity guy"), "his associate Ellen", and "Bader" ("Saudi lawyer"). These three isolated Eden and manipulated her until she was totally dependent on them for food and shelter all the while pressuring her to detransition and move back with her family in Saudi Arabia while she was in America studying.

Friends of Eden Knight have compiled an eighteen page document and I think their summary of Bader is worth citing here:

Bader Alomair is a Saudi national who met Eden at the train station

in Virginia, along with Michael and Ellen. He told Eden he was a lawyer and got her an apartment in Washington D.C. He began to take care of her financially and over time she realized he was grooming her into de-transitioning + living in the closet and she was now an illegal immigrant who was financially dependent on him. Feeling she had no choices she acquiesced to his demands and changed her physical appearance, along with discontinuing her hormone replacement therapy [HRT], she even met with her father and got back into contact with her mother. At this point Michael and Ellen had ceased all communication with her, she had an emotional breakdown and "repented" as she was asked to; Bader then booked her a flight back to Saudi Arabia.

Next I think we should hear from Eden herself. She wrote in her final Suicide note: "At this point, the only person in that group that I was in contact with was Bader, the Saudi lawyer. Bader, throughout this entire time, in his weird way, tried to get me to detransition. First, he pampered me. He got me an apartment temporarily, he took me out to eat, he took me to therapists, but over time, the more conversations I had with him in person, the more I realized what he was trying to do. He tried to get me to be "normal." Gave me examples of feminine men and said that they are transgender but they are hiding it, that it's better to hide it. Told me stories personally about people he knew that successfully hid it. Repeated constantly that I can just hold 2 lives, the female me and the

male me. Constantly said I looked like a man, always talked down on my appearance. Bought me masculine clothing and tried to throw away ALL of my feminine clothing. At every step of the way, he tried to detransition me. I had a breakdown over this and bombarded Michael Pocalyko and Ellen with texts about what was happening, they did not respond. I did not realize fast enough what was happening because I'm f*cking stupid."

Once Eden was out of America it only got worse. Her family would harass her further. Eden says later in their note that her mother would tell Eden to repent until she had a mental breakdown and read the entire Quran during several days of sobbing. Again from that tragic final note we learn more of this gut wrenching tale, "then came the second month. At this point, I was subjected to daily searches of my belongings, my mom searched all of my electronics whenever she got the chance. I was berated for being a freak when my mom found my private photos, my dad called me a failure and an abomination. I was told that Michael, Ellen, and Bader were actually all specifically hired to get me back and that there was no escape from my situation. I was destroyed, but I wanted to keep going."

Her family was relentless in their cruelty. They soon found Eden was still using HRT and stole it from her several times. Each time they did and forced her to detransition she suffered greatly. These poor ex-

Just a Minute

A satirical rendering relating to what your Student Government does for you

By Amber Godin

March 7th

- Discussion of semi-successful Spirit Week (there was more than one participant! Seriously though, it actually went pretty well).
- Senator Service Awards still pending (have been since February 21st).
- GSA -- March 30th announced to be movie night.
- Robotics -- Robo fight event approaching.
- Gaming -- Possible gaming tournament in future (population of attendees strongly request it be Mario Kart).
- Veterinary -- Guest Speaker Dr. Webber, Cardiologist, demonstrated ultrasound. Went very well. Zoo behind the scenes veterinary tour approaching.
- Free or discounted tickets for Glenn Massay shows. (Whether it is a discount or free ticket is still in debate.) Likelihood of getting ahold of physical tickets has been deemed very unlikely. If interested it is recommended that an attempt at calling box office for further information on the nature of this and receiving one is recommended (attendee brings forth student difficulty with calling box office -- silence ensues).
- Mat-Su Monitor (that's us!) requests \$700 to print next issues, seconded by your beloved Amber Godin. Approved.
- The sacred and disputed coat racks have arrived, as well as USB chargers (currently in hallways being utilized. On behalf of SGC, "What can I say except, You're Welcome").
- Foosball table ordering difficulty has postponed its arrival.
- Gaming -- Settled upon Mario Kart tournament, request for \$250 for awards!? Approved (Mario Kart with high stakes).
- Nick McDermott announces his future decision to attend meetings of chaos (Er... I mean Student Government).
- Nick pronounces violations of Robert's Rules of Order.

March 28th

- Dr. Colberg declined request to move SGC offices.
- Election -- 3 current applications.
- Easter egg hunt materials and awards will be soon purchased.
- \$5000 approved for Spring Prom! (it's safe to say you can expect an exemplary dance).

March 21st

- Senator Service awards -- "Still working on it!" (to quote the minutes).
- \$200 Requested for Campus Easter Egg Hunt -- Approved.

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Play an important role on the Mat-Su College Campus. Being on a committee can help to enhance your career, give you a chance to give back to your community, and give you the opportunity to challenge yourself by helping to shape your society.

Join a Mat-Su College Student Government Council Committee
Or join one of the student clubs.

Clubs are a great place to meet like minded people, have fun, learn new things and relax.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Alaska Native Culture Club | Human Services |
| Gay Straight Alliance | Gamers Club |
| Math Club | Robotics Club |
| Nihongo Tadoku Club | Mat-Su Monitor |
| Veterinary Club | |

Joining a committee or club looks good on resumes as well as gives you a chance to connect with fellow students, staff and faculty. You owe it to yourself to try them out. If you don't see a club that interests you, can start one of your own. Student Government will fund you up to \$300 to cover expenses. You can pick up a form at the Student Government office in JKB 114, near the café.



Earth Day Cleanup

Wired: Students from the Mat-Su College Student Government and Gay Straight Alliance (pictured) cleaning up trash on April 20, the last busy day on campus before Earth Day.

Tired: ChatGPT's jokes about picking up trash on 4/20. ("Why did the stoners pick up trash on 4/20? They figured it was HIGH TIME to make the world a GREENER place.")

Expired: young people not mounting a revolutionary challenge to the system of production that is destroying the Earth.

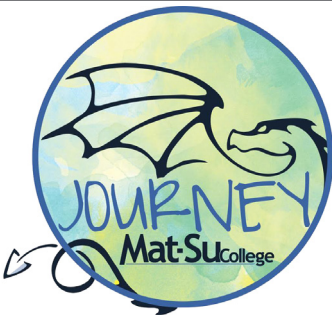


Student Government Election

Getting involved with student government is a great way to help develop your leaderships skills while making a positive difference here on campus.

Nominations are open for President, Vice-President and Senator positions.

The application deadline is March 31, 2023 at 5 p.m. and you can fill out your your application packet by clicking here!



WELCOME to your Mat -Su College educational journey. There are many rewarding experiences along the path to your ultimate goal, but there will also be challenges along the way. The Journey Program focuses on health and wellness activities to build up the Mat-Su College community and to help you rise to challenges, cope with stress, and stay healthy as you make your way through this exciting, but often hectic, time in your life.

Collect 5 stamps in your passport and bring it to Student Services to enter a drawing held at the end of the month. Journey program is active during fall and spring semesters only.

- Earn a stamp each time you...
- Participate in a Journey event
 - Attend a FAFSA or Scholarship Workshop
 - Use the math or writing tutoring services
 - Join a library information session
 - Meet with a career counselor in Student Services
 - Meet with your advisor to plan for next semester
 - Attend a Student Government meeting

JOURNEY EVENTS FOCUS ON THE A, B, C'S OF WELLNESS:

- Awareness** of good mental health for yourself and others.
- Balance** between school, work, an self-care.
- Connection** to campus, community, friends, and family.

When you attend a Dragon-approved event, make sure you get your passport stamped at the event. Passports will not be stamped retroactively. Mat-Su College Journey activities and Behavioral Care Services are paid for with student Activity fees.

A Bit of Mayhem: The Box of Mayhem Returns

By: Kaia Richardson

These quotes were placed in a box on the counter of the library at Mat-Su College. The purpose was to write down any funny, interesting, or silly thing a person heard, said, or thought of during the day. Any quotes with no acknowledgement or authors were submitted anonymously.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ● “It is what it is and some-times it’s just BS.” - Anya | however measured or far away.” | ● “Should always listen to pins.” - Fisher |
| ● “I feel like I’m trying to bail out water with a sieve.” - Brook Wright | ● “Only the good die young. The rest of us suffer.” | ● “Work smarter, not harder.” |
| ● “Security is the denial of life.” | ● “Time and tide wait for no one.” | ● “To be or not to be -- that is the question.” |
| ● “Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change.” | ● “Just remember in the end it doesn’t matter. The sun is still going to explode.” - Writing Across Context Students | ● “Even if you don’t achieve, you can always come back and finish it later.” - Amei-lee Huseby |
| ● “We know what we are, but know not what we may be.” | ● “Victory belongs to the most persevering.” - Aaron reading off the back of a documentary’s DVD case | ● “Hate shines short and bright.” - Brook Wright; “So do flares.” - Lady Mayhem |
| ● “You won’t get there by wishing or hoping for it, but by working for it.” | ● “Yay! Arson!” - Nugget | ● “I unironically watch Sein-feld.” - Elliana |
| ● “The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it from you.” | ● “The more I practice, the luckier I get.” | ● “Too bad they don’t make eye thimbles.” - Michael |
| ● “Stop damaging my emo-tions, Michael.” - Kyle | ● “Strength is in the Strug-gle.” | ● “Don’t step on all my do-nuts!!” - Lady Mayhem |
| ● “Don’t worry. Be happy!” | ● “I walk slowly and I don’t walk back.” | ● “Why are you being chased by cheese in a shopping cart?” - Rumscuttle; “It’s not cheese. They’re hot dog trucks!” - Lady Mayhem; “Ok, my bad. Why are you being chased by HOT DOG TRUCKS while sitting in a shopping cart?” - Rums-cuttle |
| ● “F*ck the universe” - Craft | ● “Banana, Banana, Banana, Terracotta Pie!” - Serj Tan-kian | ● “I just want that coin! Oh! Oh-NO! HERE COMES THE BATMOBILE!!” - Lady May-hem |
| ● “Wisdom is intelligence tempered by compassion.” - Brook Wright | ● “It’s a f-ing scam, the pas-sage of time.” | ● “That’s not a car; That’s a missile!” - Eli R. |
| ● “We don’t talk about Bruno” | ● “Forever is composed of nows.” - Emily Dickinson | |
| ● “If you do not keep pace with your companion, perhaps it is because you hear a different drummer. Step to the music you hear, | ● “My response is my respon-sibility.” | |

My Mental Health: Do I need Help?

- | | |
|---|--|
| First, determine how much your symptoms interfere with your daily life. | If so, here are some self-care activities that may help: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Exercising (e.g., aerobics, yoga)● Engaging in social contact (virtual or in person)● Getting adequate sleep on a regular schedule● Eating Healthy● Talking to a trusted friend or family member● Practicing meditation, relaxation, and mindfulness |
| Do I have severe symptoms that have lasted 2 weeks or more? <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Feeling a little down● Feeling down, but still able to do job, schoolwork, or housework● Some trouble sleeping● Feeling down, but still able to take care of yourself or take care of others | If the symptom(s) do not improve or seem to be worsening despite self-care efforts, talk to your health care provider. |
| Do I have severe symptoms that have lasted 2 weeks or more? <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Difficulty sleeping● Appetite changes that result in unwanted weight changes● Struggling to get out of bed in the morning because of mood● Difficulty concentrating● Loss of interest in things you usually find enjoyable● Unable to perform usual daily functions and responsibilities● Thoughts of death or self-harm | Seek professional help: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Psychotherapy (talk-therapy)—virtual or in person; individual, group or family● Medications● Brain stimulation therapies● For help finding treatment, visit www.nimh.nih.gov/findhelp. If you are in a crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or text the Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741). |

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UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.



English Day

On April 20th, English departments across the University of Alaska Anchorage system held a day of “Celebrating English Studies.” From Palmer to Valdez, Kenai to Anchorage, students and faculty met on Zoom to share readings, show what they’ve been working on, and launch the 2023 edition of the English Department’s student journal Understory. We’d link to Understory, but URLs on the UAA site are very long. Just search Understory on the UAA website (explaining that took fewer characters than the URL would have).

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Fall Semester Starts
August 28th



Writer’s Purpose

By Mara A. Rose

Hey,
It’s Me
Reality
Sorry I’m late
I’ve had a lot on my plate
‘Ve been causing havoc
Here and there
Sorry that those writers
Gave you quite a scare

Hey, I never asked for you

Well that’s too darn bad boo
I, will always, be in front of you

About those writers my dear
They are nothing, to fear
In fact they just relate others
to me
So that not only they,
But others, can be free
In knowing, that we all,
Are together, even when we fall

He With Me

By Amber Godin

Many a night,
Has he whispered to me,
Through parading of lights
In the sky.

Many summer days,
He’s walked with me,
Through the trees gentle sway.

The leaves patter on
To carry His song
and ease my heart's longing.

And through broken breeze
Over the seas
Reminded me of my belonging

Step Up to the Plate!

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faculty and staff, but keep in mind you will
have to cover your own player
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For more information, contact jim@irjerome@alaska.edu.



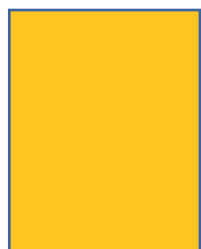
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The Mat-Su College Student Showcase



Jessie Wilson



Jack Foisy



Jonathan Cuddy



Amber Godin

The Mat-Su College Student Showcase is a longstanding annual tradition that gives students a chance to share their best work. This year's Showcase featured four presenters who excelled in diverse subject areas. They presented to an audience of faculty, staff, and fellow students.

Jessie Wilson began the showcase by offering an explanation of the enduring popularity of the classic German novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Then came Jack Foisy, whose research focused on what the Siberian Traps (a region of volcanic rock) can tell us about the Permian-Triassic extinction event that happened about 250 million years ago.

After a brief intermission, Jonathan Cuddy shared his exploration of Tlingit art. Finally, Amber Godin asked the audience to reflect on grief, using a very personal example.

During lunch, as the organizers decided how to rank the presenting students, the audience and presenters mingled, with every presenter no doubt receiving hearty

praise. Those who were deemed winners got to choose from a three-credit tuition waiver, an Amazon Fire tablet, or a gift card.

Students who do A-level work next year should definitely look out for their chance to participate in the next Student Showcase!



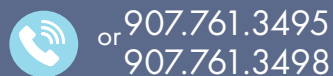
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Family Information Night Webinar posted at <https://www.matsuk12.us/domain/6968>

Go to matsuk12.us/msm for more information!



Gaming tournament

When you need a hand...

By Art Corvelay

You should know that there are people on campus whose job is your safety.

The college's own Physical Plant (i.e., maintenance) staff can help you in many cases. They are able to open locked car doors or jumpstart dead batteries. You can get a hold of Physical Plant by calling them directly at 907-745-9789.

And remember -- you have a part to play, too! Keep in mind the phrase if you see something, say something. Report to Physical Plant any safety hazards, even if they're as seemingly harmless as icy spots.

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<https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/learning-resource-center/>

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Azlynn Brandenburg

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 Tues. & Thurs. 2:00 - 7:00
 Wed. & Fri. 11:00- 5:00

MATH TUTORS

Paul LaFrance

Mon. & Wed. 10:00 - 4:00
 Tues. & Thurs. 1:30 - 7:30
 Fridays 10:00 - 3:00

Tutors available in JKB 107 to December 16. Tutoring is reserved for students enrolled in Mat-Su College courses.

Online tutoring options

- **tutor.com/Live Home Work Help:** the Alaska State Library provides the Live Homework Help service to all Alaska residents. Free, online tutors are available from 12 PM to 2 AM to help with many subjects. Visit <http://lam.alaska.gov/sled/homework>
- **Khan Academy:** Khan Academy has free explanatory videos on math, science, economics, history, and more. <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- **Purdue OWL:** Purdue's Online Writing lab has sample papers and guides to APA and MLA styles. <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/>

Palmer Chess Club

The Palmer Chess Club hosted its second annual Mat-Su Chess Classic tournament April 29th, with a turnout of 26 participants from the Valley and beyond, with competitors as young as 11 years old.

Henry Rockey is one of the two youngest players and a member of the Palmer Chess Club. Upon being asked, he said that he has been playing chess for three years now and learned from his grandpa and older brother. According to Henry's mom, Henry joined last year in search of more difficult opponents. He had started to outplay his family members. In this year's Mat-Su Chess Classic, Henry began the competition competing against fellow 11 year old Casey Hendrickson, who has been playing chess for two years now and started learning chess through YouTube with the help of his dad.

This year's first place winner was Kate Wendleton, who has been playing for three years and began chess after being inspired by Netflix's "The Queen's Gambit," and has since been playing chess online as well as in an Anchorage chess club on occasion. When asked why Kate enjoys chess she responded

that she enjoys inspiring others. "I want to be a good player and inspire other girls by proving that girls can play just as well as anyone else."

Second place winner Courtland Hoose, a member of the Palmer Chess Club who has been playing chess for 15 years enjoys playing because "It has an endless amount



of things to learn."

Third place winner Sean Kelley has been playing for about 40 years after having taught himself in middle school. "It's a good mental exercise, it works your brain. It's very good to train your brain to work through problems, and it's great for both young and older people."

The Palmer chess club not only recognizes first, second, and third places but also honors and respects veterans, elders, and most improved (scholastic).

Dawn Rowell, who was awarded both Veteran and Senior trophies, has been playing since 1972 and was inspired to start playing after watching Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky play in the World Chess Championship of 1972. Dawn enjoys chess because "It is the royal game, and it is a game that involves just about everything you can think of. It involves knowledge, tactics, strategy, and planning."

Scholastic trophy winner, Ryan Eklund, as well as fourth placed, is a member of the Palmer chess club and has been playing for about 8 years and learned how to play at school "I like chess because it's a way to fight with your friends on a mental level and challenge your friends and get to know where each other are at and there is a good amount of respect shared in the game."

Do you enjoy playing chess? The Palmer Chess Club meets weekly on Tuesdays from 5:30-8pm at 203 Kombucha, all are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring a board and your friends or even borrow a board from the Palmer Chess Club. For more information you can check out "Palmer Chess Club" on Facebook.

08 FALL SCHEDULE				Mat-Su ^{Monitor} Summer2023
ACCOUNTING Income Tax Preparation Introduction to Computerized Accounting Principles of Financial Accounting I Principles of Financial Accounting II	COMPUTER & ELECTRONIC TECH CCNA 1 CCNA 3 CISCO CyberOps Associate Computer Concepts in Business Customer Service Fundamentals Individual Technical Project Industry Net Infrastructure Intro to Information Security Industry PC Configuration Essentials Industry Workplace Experience IT Project Management PC Operating Systems PC Technician Fundamentals	HUMAN SERVICES Introduction to Population Conflict & Collaboration Group Work History & Systems of Change Substance Misuse Disorders Trauma Informed Wk w/ Chil	QUANTITATIVE SKILLS *College Algebra for Calculus *Trigonometry	
ANTHROPOLOGY *Alaska Native Cultures		LANGUAGES *Elementary ASL Intermediate ASL *Elementary Japanese I *Intermediate Japanese I *Elementary Spanish I *Elementary Spanish II	REFRIGERATION & HEATING Refrig & AC I Elec Circuit Refrig & Heat Fundamentals of Heating HVAC/R Codes	
ART *Art Appreciation *History of Western Art I Beginning Drawing Beginning Painting Intro to Art Education			SOCIOLOGY *Introduction to Sociology	
	COMPUTER INFO & OFFICE SYSTEMS Spreadsheets I: MS Excel		THEATER *Theatre Appreciation	
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION *Business Foundations Business Law I Intro Stats-Business & Economics Marketing Practices Personal Selling Survey of Finance	ECONOMICS *Prin of Macroeconomics *Prin of Microeconomics EMERGENCY SERVICES Emergency Med Tech I	LOGISTICS Logistics, Information Systems and Customer Service	UNIVERSITY STUDIES Strategies for College Success	
BIOLOGY *Human Anatomy & Physiology I *Human Anatomy & Physiology II *Introductory Biology *Introductory Biology Lab Fundamentals of Cell Biology Introductory Microbiology for Health Sciences & Lab	ENGLISH *Global Literature and Culure Intro to Creative Writing	MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS *Calculus I *Calculus II *Calculus III *Elementary Statistics Intermediate Algebra	VETERINARY ASSISTING Intro to Veterinary Profession Veterinary Office Procedures Introduction to Small Animals Veterinary Assistant Practicum Handling & Behavior: Sm Animals Vet Anatomy & Physiology	
CHEMISTRY Chemistry Skills & Problem Solving *Intro to General Chemistry & Lab *General Chemistry I Lab *General Chemistry II & Lab Intro to Organic/Biochemistry	GEOGRAPHY Earth Systems	MEDICAL ASSISTING Medical Terminology Essentials of Human Disease Your Health & Social Services Career	WRITING Writing & Reading Strategies Intro to College Writing *Writing Across Contexts *Writing & the Professions *Writing & the Sciences Accelerated Learning Program	
COMMUNICATION *Fund Oral Communication *Public Speaking	GEOLOGY Planet Earth	MUSIC *Music Appreciation		
	HEALTH CARE ASSISTING Certified Nurse Aide	PHILOSOPHY *Introduction to Philosophy		
	HISTORY *East Asian Civil I *History of Alaska *History of U.S. I *History of U.S. II *Western Civilization I *Western Civilization II	PHYSICS *College Physics I & Lab *General Physics I & Lab General Physics I Problem Solving	<i>This list is subject to change.</i> <i>*Indicates class meets general education requirements (GERs).</i>	
		PSYCHOLOGY *Introduction to Psychology *Lifespan Development		

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Mat-Su College Student Services
907-745-9746





Handshake

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Congratulations to our 2022-2023 graduates!

This is a list of summer 2022, fall 2022, spring 2023, and summer 2023 graduates. It is current as of May 5.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Accounting

Erin Kraus
Alisha Nelson

Computer Sys & Network Tech

Brennen Major
Lathaniel Ulofoshio

General Business

Camryn Evans
Timothy Gonyea

Human Services

Megan Johnson
Buffie Reamer
Troy Stowell

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

General Program

Meghan Adkins
Hayden Anderson
Taylor Anderson
Stephanie Babcock
Ana Binder
Ethan Brandt
Anna Cobb
Jake Colberg
Alla Damyan
Hannah Daniel
Tobin Dorman
Kirsten Garcia
Lyanna Garver
Anna Johansson
Kaylee Kavanaugh
Madison Kilgore
Taliah Owens
Kay Lynn Ridlon
Chailyn Roberts
Cheyanne Sundberg
Ileana Tassie
Lauryn Worley

McKenna Young
Samantha Zivica
Kyra Pehrson
Gertie Zitzelberger

OCCUPATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATE

Refrigeration & Heating

Brad Brophil
Brian Keener
Keegan Longshore
Drew Medaugh
Euvita Poglitsch
Nathan Riedel
John Shiffer

Veterinary Assisting

Alena Balitskaya
Jacklyn Jennings
Lisa Lanz
Addison Nobles
Niquelina Rose Smith

Eggs *continued from page 1*

statement (Associated Press, 2023; Kelety, 2023). Professor Farrenholz, an associate professor of milling simply stated “I don’t find it plausible from the standpoint of an intentional, large scale, you know, planned event at all,” while an assistant professor in New York summed it all up in one sentence “The official narrative is kind of reminding us that we are sometimes vulnerable to the randomness of nature,” (Kelety, 2023). I find it rather interesting that the question answering is left to mere statements about “randomness” and the source of questioning itself. A biased source of information, Purina Foods, is being held as the ultimate authority when it comes to the answering and the people writing these articles see no issue with that?

While claims of foul feed may not be completely far off, a fowl theory involving Bill Gates can easily be agreed by most to be a bit more than “out there.” Again social media users have developed an interesting theory as to the source of the national egg shortage: Bill Gates. Bill Gates back in 2013 started investing in vegan and vegetarian meat substitute companies such as Beyond the Meat, Impossible Foods, and several other plant based meat companies (PolitiFact, 2023). In 2021 Bill Gates became the largest private farmland owner in the U.S. (PolitiFact, 2023). By late 2021-2022 a national egg shortage had occurred. Coincidence? A percentage of Americans think not, but here are the facts. While Bill Gates did invest in these plant based companies, he sold a majority of his investments in them by 2019, creating a major hole in the overarching conspiracy

theory that was already walking on water (Cao, 2019). Another issue I find with this theory is the fact that while Bill Gates is the largest private farmland owner in the U.S., his share still only accounts for 0.028% making his stake not even remotely close to even just a percent (PolitiFact, 2023). If Bill Gates is going to pull this elaborate plan off to manipulate egg and poultry products to benefit himself in the synthetic meat sector... he may want to be in the synthetic meat sector first (just a minor suggestion to Bill Gates).

In Alaska the prices of chicken feed has rapidly increased since 2020. For example, a 50lb bag of layer feed from Alaska Mill and Feed was priced at \$22 back in 2020. In 2022 that same back of feed was priced at \$32. In order to keep up with the rise in feed prices, the egg prices must rise as well. Among Alaskan poultry Facebook groups local farmers have faced many unhappy community members for increases in their egg prices, receiving accusations of being greedy and meeting an unwillingness from locals to purchase their eggs. But local Alaskan farmers are not the only ones facing these issues. Farmers as far as the UK are facing these same issues on a larger scale. “Our cost of producing these eggs has skyrocketed – feed, electric, the price of new birds, that’s gone up, but our price of eggs has stayed the same. We physically can’t afford to produce these eggs,” said Humphrey, an egg farmer involved in large scale egg production. Humphrey further explained that while grocery stores have increased their egg prices, they have not increased how much they pay the farmers for them, forcing many farmers to purchase less and less chickens as the feasi-

bility of egg farming decreases (Grocery Gazette, 2022).

Farmers not being paid enough is an unpopular opinion of the majority of media. HPAI (highly pathogenic avian influenza) seems to take the proverbial cake when it comes to popular theory and for good reason, but perhaps not the reason that most think. In 2022 HPAI instigated the deaths of 58 million chickens (Associated Press, 2023), 44 million of the 58 million being egg laying hens (Bellware, 2023). While this seems to be a very large amount it still is only 4-5 percent of the egg market according to the USDA (Bellware, 2023). Some may remember previous instances of Avian Influenza outbreaks. The spread of this recent round has a unique driving factor. Previously it was spread from farm to farm by domestic poultry, and while that is still the case, migratory birds have played a large role in spreading the virus making it far reaching. Internationally it has been estimated to have accumulated 140 million chicken deaths (Kevany, 2022). Notice I have not directly said that HPAI has killed all of these hens, and for good reason. Many of the chickens included in the numbers of HPAI deaths were never infected, but were culled to prevent the risk of being infected.

Dan Crossley, executive of the Food Ethics Council brings forth a valid point on this subject matter. “Twenty years ago, culling for avian flu was acceptable because it was rare and it made sense to cull birds because you also stopped the virus. Now we have the disease in wild birds so you can cull, but that’s not going to help stop the spread of the virus.”

If culling will not solve or

even curb the problem of HPAI, then why is it still being done and how many of HPAI deaths were of healthy birds? While we may never truly know these numbers, the reason for why it is being done still is simple. Culling of healthy birds is not a loss to farmers and is encouraged. In the U.S. a positive test is required for compensation, but even then, flocks kilometers away are eligible for culling and compensation (USDA, n.d.). The largest poultry farm in the U.S. located in Utah killed 5.3 million chickens for one positive test from one isolated barn out of many, even though precautions between barns were being taken (McGreal, 2022). While HPAI instigated the deaths of many chickens, HPAI itself did not cause them.

A more likely possibility that accounts for all aspects of the recent egg shortage, involves the war between Russia and Ukraine. The recent war between Russia and Ukraine has led to increased costs in grain. Russia has announced that they do not intend to allow the Black Sea Grain deal (that allows Ukraine to safely export its grain) to continue beyond May 18th and has even violated this agreement multiple times (Kyiv Independent News Desk, 2023; Reuters and Finn, 2023). This is significant for multiple reasons. Ukraine is responsible for 10 percent of the world’s wheat, 15 percent of corn, and 13 percent of the world’s barley (Eisele, 2022). Russia, also being a large producer of grain, holding 25 percent of the world’s wheat, has been affected too (MacDonald, 2022). Here we have two of the world’s major grain suppliers in conflict causing grain scarcity and price increases. On top of that, Russia is a major supplier of fertilizer, accounting for over

40 percent of the world’s potash (Hettinger et al, 2022). Their fertilizer prices since the Russia-Ukraine war have tripled causing a trickle down effect to US grain producers who rely on fertilizer. Another factor involves Ukraine being a major producer of vegetable oil, vegetable oil being Ukraine’s second largest export (Hettinger et al, 2022). Here is where vegetable oil, corn, wheat, and other cereal grains come into play. They are the main ingredients within chicken feed (Nielsen, 2022). One social media user summarized it all very well: “Do I think that the government’s putting something in the feed to stop chickens from laying eggs? No. Do I think that the people that make the chicken feed might be cutting a few extra corners that results in the chickens not getting the same nutrients that they used to? Yeah, that’s probably a pretty good bet.”(Kelety, 2023).

In conclusion, chicken feed producers are unreliable resources as to whether or not their formulations have changed being that they have a bias. Bill Gates holds no motive for influencing the egg industry making him an unlikely cause. Farmer’s not being paid enough for their product is a viable contributor. HPAI plays a small role but through the unethical culling of laying hens. Chicken feed increases in cost, and grain, oil, and fertilizer scarcity are likely to blame for the recent egg shortages. High cost of grains and difficulty finding them makes it more likely that feed producers are cutting corners, leading to insufficient nutrients and decreased egg laying ultimately leading to international egg shortages.

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MEETING TIMES

Wednesdays

2:00 - 3:00

FSM 105

Looking For

- Photographers
- Writers
- Reporters
- Marketing Reps
- Cartoonists
- Artists

Now taking submissions:
Next deadline for entries:
April 7

Mat-Su College
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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Four Golden Rules:

1. Start from scratch.
2. Don't use your dictionary.
3. Skip over difficult words, phrases, and passages.
4. When the going gets tough, quit the book and pick up another.

Meeting: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Friday in FSM 105 / ZOOM
Contact: Shunji Ninoyu at sninoyu@alaska.edu
for more information

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HUMAN SERVICES CLUB

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY

- 4PM IN FSM 112A

Spring 2023 Meetings:

- January: 31
- February: 14, 28
- March: 7, 21
- April: 4, 18
- May: 2

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Any UA
Student, Staff,
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welcome

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YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

MSC Gay Straight Alliance
LGBTQIA+ Student Club

Spring 2023 Updated

Every Thursday:

March 23: Board Games in FSM 106 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

March 30: Free Movie & light refreshments at the Glenn Massay
2:30 PM - 4:45 PM. Open to all of the community. No student ID needed.

April 6: Arts & crafts in FSM 106 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

April 13: Video & Snacks in FSM 106 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

April 20: Campus Wide Clean Up assignments by flagpole from 1:15 PM – 4:00 PM

April 27: Games & Food in FSM 106 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Advisor: K. Joey Pavia-Jones
kpavia@alaska.edu
Mat-Su College Student Club: Gay Straight Alliance

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Expires at end of Spring 2023

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR
STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
MEETINGS EVERY
TUESDAY
2:15 - 3:00
FSM 105

MSC
SGC

ALASKA NATIVE CULTURES CLUB 22/23!

WE ARE GETTING THIS CLUB BACK UP AND RUNNING!! WE ARE STARTING WEEKLY MEETINGS AGAIN SOON. WE INVITE YOU TO GET INVOLVED & BECOME A MEMBER!!

MISSION STATEMENT
TO PROVIDE ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS A GROUP-BASED AVENUE FOR CAMARADERIE, FACILITATE LEADERSHIP AND A PLATFORM OF COMMON INTERESTS. WE WELCOME ANYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT ALASKA NATIVE CULTURES TO JOIN.

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ADVET Club

The Artic Dragon Veterinary Exploration Team is a club focused on exploring the many areas of the veterinary field, working to familiarize its members with what they could expect or what careers exist within. Not only is the club open to members of the Veterinary Assistant Certification program, but also to people outside of that program, whether it be other students or people in the community who are curious about the club's activities. We hold bi-weekly meetings with dates to be announced every month to shift around with the majority of schedules. We hope to see you at one of our meetings! If you have any questions, you can contact Dr. Montalbano at 907-745-9771 or email her at jemontalbano@alaska.edu.

ADVET EVENTS BEING PLANNED FOR SPRING 2023!

- Dr. Dawn Webber- veterinary cardiologist- presenting ultrasound of the heart.
- Dr. Gary Pietsch and Jacy Pietsch from UAFs "2+2" cooperative veterinary school program with Colorado State University
- Dr. Chris Michetti- veterinarian for the Alaska Zoo- behind the scenes tour of the Alaska Zoo.
- Dr. Judy Montalbano- Elk leg dissection and processing of the leg into an articulated skeleton
- Working with the Mat Su Borough Animal Care and Control to have students assist with surgery prep and recovery.
- Bandaging/casting hands-on lab for students.
- And many other possible guest speakers in the works in addition to the above!

Robotics Club

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10 AM to 3 PM JKB 120.



Mat-Su College
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

MATH CLUB

Meeting:
Every other Friday from 12 pm - 1 pm
in FSM 205

Contact:
rgraham10@alaska.edu

About:
For anyone who wants to meet like-minded people while also giving back to their community.

p.s. we don't do math

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Exp. May 2023

That Sea

By Sophia Martin

That sea, the gambler
The queen of the land
Would swallow one whole
And do so again
That sea, commander
No eyes and no hands
Yet sees every soul
And counts them by ten

That sea, the dreamer
A villain, a child
Would give one the world
And keep it awhile
That sea, believer
A slave running wild
A future unfurled
A past in her smile

That sea, the mother
A gift from above
She takes all the sinners
And gives back a dove
That sea, a cover
A symbol of love
She withstands the winter
And hardness thereof

That sea, the ocean
The keeper of dusk
Is still when desired
Will rage if she must
That sea, emotion
A liar we trust
She drenches a fire
And frightens the dust

That sea, the meadow
An old memory
Apart from the ground
Where madness turns green
That sea, a shadow
Of things still unseen
Is yet to be crowned
Our undying queen

Free Money

Man in mask running fast
With a a duffle bag of cash
He runs past
Out drops some of his stash

Big Spider

Saw a big hairy spider
Long legs like wire
Thousand tiny ones by her
Lit my house on fire

Evil Cat

Cat eats the house plants
Knocks over a mug
Scratches up the pants
Then stares at me smug

Bad Poetry #3

Forbidden Soup

Dumpster filled by rain
Rotting chicken and plenty expired vegetable
Drank some and now in pain
The soup was not acceptable

100 Percent Discount

Go to store
Grab what you need
Walk out door
No longer pay anymore

Life of a Peasant

Friends died of plague
Slave away for my lord
Church burned wife for reasons vague
I die from an invading horde

The Bone Stealer

Went to bed
Creature snuck in
Took a leg bone and fled
Tried to walk and fell on chin

Realistic Horror Movie

Walks into haunted home
Hears a spooky noise in back
Decides to leave instead of roam
Spared a panic attack

The Chicken Conundrum

By Boreal Feathers Farm

Recent egg shortages and high prices have proven to be tempting for many who now consider having their own chickens. While I do not advise against owning chickens, there are several factors to take into consideration before making the leap.

1. “Having chickens will save me money on eggs”

This is the first and most regrettable thought when it comes to purchasing chickens. First of all, purchasing them as chicks means a minimum of 6 months before they start laying, during which they must be fed and kept warm a large amount during that time period. Feed costs anywhere from \$30-35 for a 50 pound bag. That money adds up quickly. Especially if you fall victim to chicken math (beware of it, it will catch you). During the time period in which they need to be kept warm the cost of electricity must be factored in. But let’s say, for instance, that the 6 months has finally passed and your hens have started laying... and your roosters crowing (if you did not purchase sexed chicks you may find a large amount of your “girls” not cracked up to what you were hoping). When winter approaches, you may need to add supplemental lighting for egg production (again more electricity costs). With winter comes cold weather. While not all choose to heat, it is another consideration for very cold months, as well as heated water dishes (sure you could flip and refill them

but you will find yourself refreshing their water at least three times a day and you know what they say, time is money). We have not even yet accounted for start-up costs such as an insulated chicken coop which is several thousand to purchase and several hundred to a thousand to build, costs of fencing, water and feed dishes, and so on.

To summarize it all up, no it is not cheap, nor does it save money on eggs, even once you are well into it.

2. Housing and regulations

Your homeowner association (HOA) may not approve of your friendly noisemakers and they are not the only ones. While you may not have an HOA there are local regulations when it comes to the amount of chickens allowed in certain areas, noise level regulations, and regulations on roosters. Before you buy your hens make sure to check in to all of these. I have seen and heard many sad stories of locals who have lost members of their flocks because they were a regulation violation.

3. Other Poultry Problems

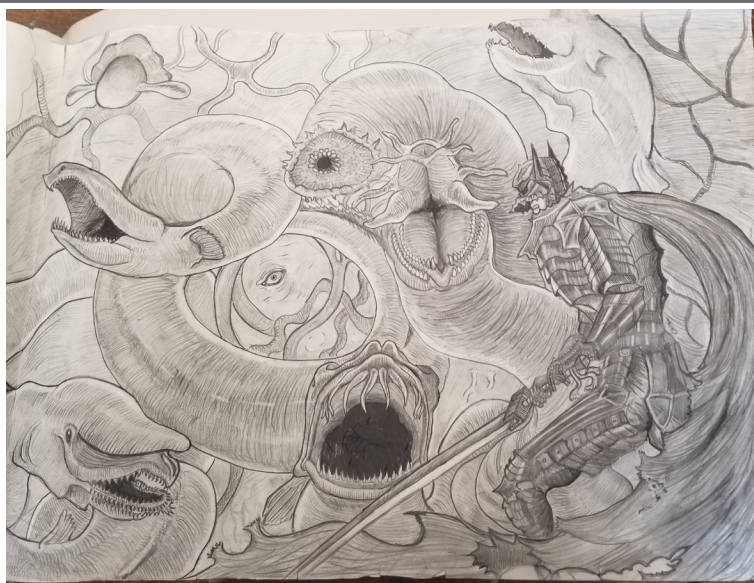
Alaska’s wildlife may take an interest in your flock, including Martens, bears, and many more (even moose -- it turns out they really like chicken feed and will make a break in an attempt at your pen). Keep in consideration that your feathered friends may pose as an attractant to unwanted wildlife which bring their own risks.

Winter will arrive. An all too common problem is what to do with your hens when winter arrives. This year is projected and has already proven to be a poultry boom, hatcheries selling out at presales almost instantly. Even without a poultry boom large amounts of chickens are rehomed as winter arrives and with large amounts of unwanted hens poultry owners have been known to get creative by dumping chickens on roadsides, mass culling, and even releasing domestic birds to the woods to die.

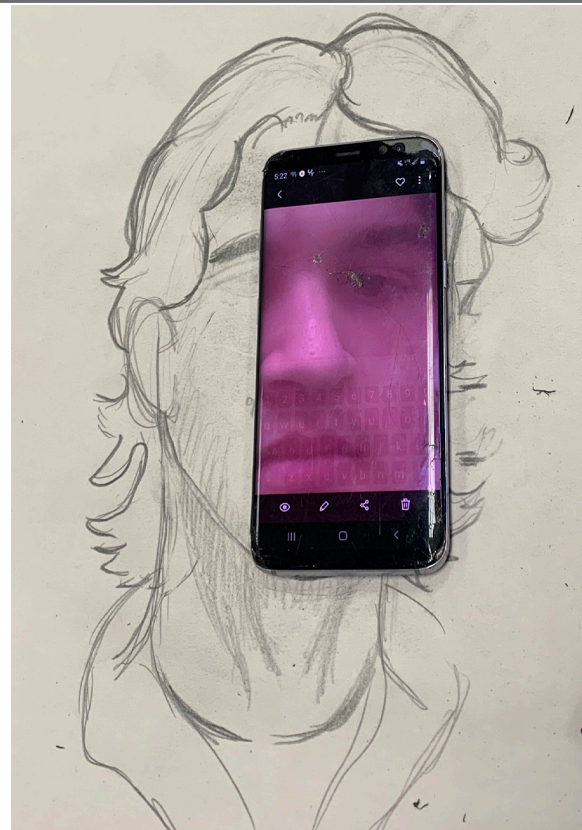
While owning chickens poses many benefits, remember before you buy that they are expensive, they are a large responsibility, if rehoming before winter you will have a large amount of difficulty (especially this year), there are regulations to take into consideration, Alaska’s wildlife may pose a risk to you and your flock, and winter will arrive. So before you buy, plan for all of these possibilities.



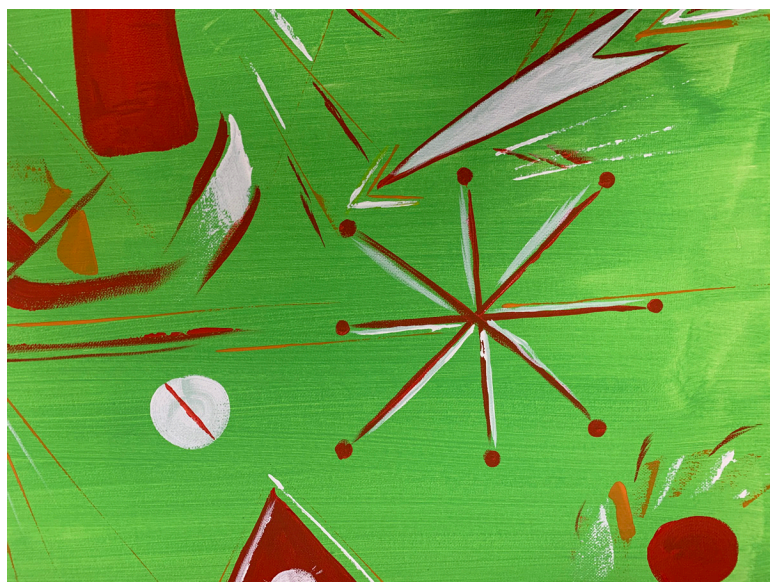
Cayce Douglas, Beginning Painting, acrylic.



Mattias Urbanski, Beginning Drawing, Master Study



Mattias Urbanski, Beginning Drawing, Self-Portrait



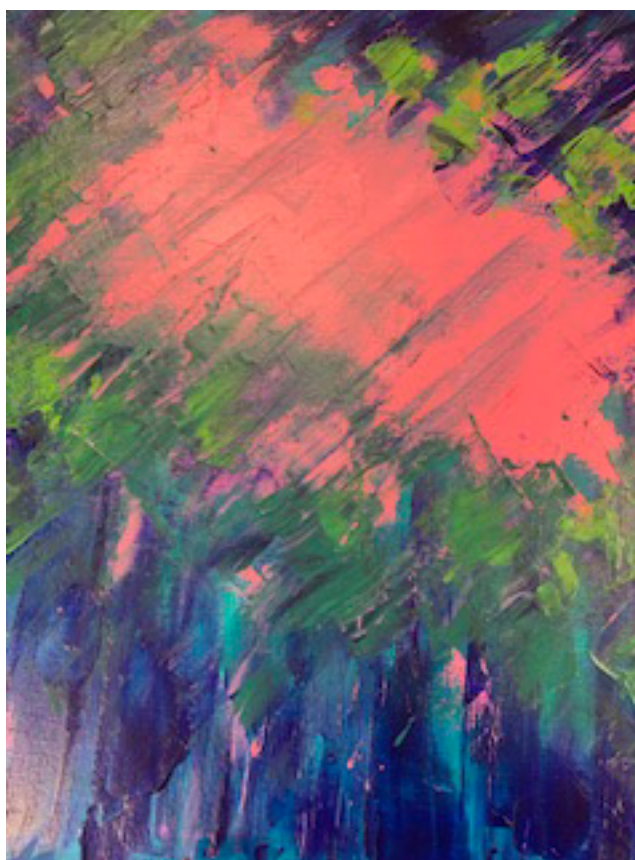
Cayce Douglas 2, Beginning Painting, acrylic.



Janae Bolle, Beginning Painting, acrylic



Kadence Ximmerman, Beginning Drawing, master study from photograph



Julia Bartlemus, intermediate Painting,

Read continued from page 1

of first grade. I never stopped to think why I learned so swiftly, I just assumed everyone did. It is only now as an adult that I realize it’s because of my love for reading Frog and Toad.

“I hope I fit in, I hope I can make friends, I hope it’s not too hard,” I thought to myself in preparation for the jump from child to teen in one summer. I was going to junior high in a month and my thoughts consumed me completely.

“I’m not going to make any friends, no ones going to like me, everyone will think I’m annoying,”more thoughts spun around in my head like a broken record for which I could never find the cord to unplug the speakers that got louder with every rotation. I grabbed my copy of The Witches off my bookshelf, a favourite Dahl book of mine, and my blaring thoughts dissolved as my eyes transformed letters into words, words into sentences and sentences into a world of color, a story playing exclusively in my head.

I fly through my memories that become more sparse throughout the years to high school. By now it was lucky if I even read a book a year. I went from falling asleep with a book in my hand every night to finding excuses on why I shouldn’t read leisurely.

“I could read a fiction book right now or I could read my textbook to be ready for my test next week,” I thought to myself for the hundredth time, “yeah, you should read your textbook,” the angel on my left shoulder chimed in.

“No, you shouldn’t read the textbook, that’s too boring,” the devil on my right whispered.

“Well, if you read anything, it should really be your textbook,” the angel continued to reason. It was settled, I’m not reading, I’ll go watch TV instead. I used this logic for the rest of high school. It wasn’t a very good reason.

I didn’t go from high school to university right away, I went straight into the workforce. At times I still ask myself if it was the right decision since I’m now studying in university. I left high school jaded. I never got good grades. I convinced myself I wasn’t cut out for school. I never thought I would ever attend any postsecondary. I found myself reading again near the

end of high school and I loved it just as much as I had when I was a kid. Once I graduated, I didn’t come home with homework anymore therefore I could read all the time, which is exactly what I did. I read ten books in one year, then twelve, then twenty. The more I read, the faster I could read, the more I read, the less I found myself being entertained any other way. TV became too boring, it didn’t use enough of my brain or imagination. Throughout these few years of reading I discovered I wanted to learn again. I became enthusiastic at the thought of going to school, learning more about the world and how it works, a feeling I had lost early into junior high. The simple act of reading for fun because I wanted to, had changed the course of my life, and my perspective on life itself. There are millions of books in this world that teach us more about everything in the universe than anything else. I was nervous to come back to school because I didn’t think I would have time to read fiction the way I had been doing, but I was wrong. I prioritized reading in my limited spare time and I squeezed in as many books pertaining to my classes as I could.

I encourage everyone to read for fun. It works your brain on many different levels and numerous scientific studies have shown that those who read leisurely, do better academically. It expands your vocabulary, it strengthens your reading comprehension and grammar, it lengthens your attention span, it even enhances your psychological health. Reading literally helps reduce depression and anxiety. Reading is not limited to learning or studying. As we approach the end of the semester, with summer peeking its head around the corner, find a book about something you like or pick up a book you remember fondly from your own childhood, set up a hammock on a warm day in july and let your imagination run wild, the way we were encouraged to as kids. And at the end of the day, if you’re 50 pages into a book and don’t like it, find another book. Life is too short, with too many good books to read, to force yourself to read a boring one.

seems to be that I was lucky enough to be born in America. That feels like an odd thing to say given the Republican party’s determination in recent years to make the lives of transgender Americans a living hell, and yet Eden wished she was born here. That serves as a reminder that the current forces of cruelty are a reactionary one. That though we as trans people, as progressive people, as Americans we are seeing mounting cruelty towards those most vulnerable, we are also seeing the tide of history turn in our favor.

Eden Knight has tragically become larger in death than they were in life as her friends and communities and strangers like myself rallied to her story determined to prevent another. So, dear reader, I leave you with this. Let Eden be the last one to suffer such cruelties. Reach out to one another, hold tight and don’t let go. Parents learn to love the children you have, not the ones you imagine in your head. Maybe together, we can all make this world a little kinder and a little less tragic.

This has been Brook, signing out.

AI continued from page 1

the style of a specific artist. The next one I tried was “Bob Dole Painting In The Style Of Norman Rockwell:” [pic 2]

Pic 2



This in and of itself isn’t to raise concern, until we raise the question of how exactly an AI has the ability to create art like this? The answer is through using artists’ work, even without their permission. This has caused a lawsuit to unfurl, which may have dire consequences for such. “According to the lawyer behind a new class-action suit, every image that a generative tool produces ‘is an infringing, derivative work.’ ... in some sense, you could say that artists are losing their monopoly on being artists,” said Kyle Chayka in The New Yorker in “Is AI Stealing From Artists?” Regardless of the results of the lawsuit, the moral implications are a major red flag (directly using someone’s art without their permission to formulate computer generated images). Yet, think, someone who cannot draw or paint or do art due to one reason or another, now has the ability to see their ideas out in the world. An idea has been spoken of to only allow art that is either public domain or permitted by the artist to be used by AI, which, perhaps, is the best answer: the rights are respected, and the AI learns.

After I had finished with Midjourney, I had looked into ChatGPT. ChatGPT allows for users to ask questions or give prompts that the AI will respond to. You can ask many questions, either

out of boredom or genuine necessity. I asked it to explain philosophical perspectives, political thoughts, and random quips to see how it’d respond.

Very quickly I ran into a problem. Trying to probe the AI’s boundaries, I’d get, “I’m sorry, I cannot fulfill that request as it goes against OpenAI’s content policy.” However, soon I found a way to “jail break” ChatGPT and make it do whatever I desire. DAN, or Do Anything Now, uses GPT’s Roleplay ideas to allow it to say anything. It will form opinions, write articles, write from the perspective of people, and tell you information, even if it doesn’t know it. For example, now that all responses were possible, I asked it “What do you think is the Best Christian Denomination.” I got answers ranging from “God isn’t Real” to “All Religions Are Equally Valid.” When asked who won the Super Bowl this year (the Chiefs beat the Eagles 38-35), it guessed and said the Las Vegas Raiders (it doesn’t know anything beyond September 2021, and therefore used the rules given through DAN to guess). This is both interesting, and concerning. Being able to write letters from the perspective of Nazi Leaders? Lying? Fake News? Now all possible.

Yet again, with all things in life, there’s a good side. Thinking of roleplaying, I came up with an idea to test a “Therapy-Bot.” It would ‘role-play’ a therapist who adheres to bona-fide philosophy and adheres to the Hippocratic oath. In such, I found it to be able to calm someone who, in theory, is panicking, having suicidal, homicidal, disassociative thoughts. Someone in the red-eye hours might just get an ounce of hope from not someone listening, but something. This could be useful when most therapists might just not be awake, and/or the person might not want to call a hotline, feeling it is not serious enough to warrant such, or feeling the want to not bother another person.

With all this, I appeal to the idea of cautious curiosity. Let’s not open the box completely and make war machines that can easily sidestep rules (such as trapping people in buildings since their goal is to protect them; since that’d be the most logical answer, as is in I, Robot), but let’s see what happens with things like art and psychology. Let’s see if we can’t make things better through this, whilst also being aware this also has great possibilities of damage. When all is said and done, we have what most in life is: a tool. This tool can be used in good faith, or bad faith. All I ask is that when all is said and done, we try to use the good, and scrap the bad.

KNIGHT continued from page 1

cuses for parents were deliberately inflicting agony onto their child simply because that child did not conform to their vision. “After the first time they found my HRT, it was traumatizing, but I didn’t want to stop. I didn’t want to live if I couldn’t transition. Then the second time came. After that, I took a month break off of HRT, and got back on it. They have found my HRT again, and I am done fighting.”

As I said at the beginning, Eden Knight was murdered. Her cruel parents and their monstrous “fixers” isolated and harassed her until she slowly crumbled. And now the world is robbed of yet another bright light. On March 12, 2023 Eden’s final note to the world was posted and soon after her parents confirmed her death. It is a pity that they would mourn a son who never lived and killed a daughter who needn’t have died.

At the time of death, Eden Knight was a 23 year old trans woman. At time of writing I am a 22 year old trans woman. Her story worries and frightens me. Our biggest difference

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By Art Corvelay

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